

## WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Getting help is worth the effort and there are many people who will help you. If you are upset and have questions or if you need a safe place to stay, contact the Domestic Violence Center nearest you from the following list:

Bartow, Florida ..... (941) 533-3141  
Brandenton, Florida ..... (941) 747-7790  
Bunnell, Florida ..... (904) 957-4673  
Clearwater, Florida ..... (813) 442-4128  
Cocoa, Florida ..... (407) 631-2764  
Dade City, Florida ..... (904) 567-1553  
Daytona Beach, Florida ..... (904) 255-2102  
Delray Beach, Florida ..... (407) 265-2900  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida ..... (954) 761-1133  
Ft. Myers, Florida ..... (941) 939-3112  
**Gainesville, Florida ..... (352) 377-8255**  
Inverness, Florida ..... (352) 344-8111  
Jacksonville, Florida ..... (904) 354-3114  
Key West, Florida ..... (305) 294-0824  
Key Largo, Florida ..... (305) 852-6222  
Kissimmee, Florida ..... (407) 847-8562  
Marathon, Florida ..... (305) 743-4440  
Miami, Florida ..... (305) 758-2546  
Martin County, Florida ..... (561) 288-7023  
Naples, Florida ..... (941) 775-2011  
Ocala, Florida ..... (352) 622-8495  
Okeechobee, Florida ..... (941) 763-0202  
Orlando, Florida ..... (407) 886-2856  
Orange Park, Florida ..... (904) 284-0061  
Panama City, Florida ..... (850) 763-0706  
Pensacola, Florida ..... (850) 434-6600  
Port Charlotte, Florida ..... (813) 627-6000  
Port Richey, Florida ..... (813) 856-5797  
Punta Gorda, Florida ..... (941) 627-6000  
Sarasota, Florida ..... (941) 365-1976  
St. Lucie County, Florida ..... (561) 464-4555  
St. Petersburg, Florida ..... (813) 898-3671  
Tallahassee, Florida ..... (850) 681-2111  
Tampa, Florida ..... (813) 247-7233  
Vero Beach, Florida ..... (561) 562-3374  
West Palm Beach, Florida ..... (561) 655-6106  
**STATEWIDE TOLL FREE # ..... 1 (800) 500-1119**

The State certified Domestic Violence Center for **Bradford County** is:

### Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network

2100 NW 53rd Avenue, Suite A  
Gainesville, Florida 32653  
Phone: (352) 377-5690  
Helpline: (352) 377-8255  
Fax: (352) 378-9033

[www.peacefulpaths.org](http://www.peacefulpaths.org)

### Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

Safety – Referrals – Information  
Support – Someone To Talk To

### Support Groups

Regularly scheduled groups with other battered women.

### Shelter Services

Safety for women and children.  
Counseling – Group and Individual.  
Children’s Programs.

### Outreach Services

24-Hour Crisis Line – Crisis Intervention Counseling –  
Transitional Housing – Batterer’s Program –  
Assistance/Advocacy for Civil Orders for Protection –  
Teen Dating Violence Programs – Violence  
Prevention Education Programs – Victim Safety  
Program – Domestic Violence Intervention Program

**HOTLINE: (352) 377-8255**  
**TOLL FREE: 1 (800) 393-SAFE**

A place to learn how to take control of your life and live free from the fear of domestic violence.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## NOTICE OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES AVAILABLE

No one, not even someone you live with, has the right to physically abuse you or threaten you with violence.

If this is happening to you, YOU CAN TAKE ACTION. Knowing your legal rights and other options is the first step toward ending the abuse.



Provided By:  
**BRADFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**945-B North Temple Avenue**  
**Starke, Florida 32091**  
**(904) 966-6161**  
**Emergency – 911**

Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Report Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

THERE IS A LAW TO PROTECT YOU if you are being physically or sexually abused or threatened by a family or household member, or you fear such abuse. The law protects you if you are being abused or threatened by your spouse, former spouse, or another family or household member who is or was living in the same household as you. The law protects you from abuse by a person with whom you have a child in common. You need not be married to the abuser or be related to be protected under the law.

#### WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, you may ask the state attorney to file a criminal complaint. You also have the right to go to court and file a petition requesting an Injunction for Protection from Domestic Violence, which may include, but need not be limited to, provisions which restrain the abuser from further acts of abuse; direct the abuser to leave your household; prevent the abuser from entering your residence, school, business or place of employment; award you custody of minor child or children; and direct the abuser to pay support to you and the minor children if the abuser has a legal obligation to do so.

#### CAN THIS LAW HELP?

Yes... if this individual has abused you physically or sexually, or if you have good reason to fear that this person is about to be violent toward you. This special law in Florida enables you to get a judge to **ORDER** the abuser to **STOP**.

The paper that starts this process is called a **Petition for Injunction for Protection against Domestic Violence**. This explains to the judge whom you need protection from and exactly what protection you need. You can ask for help even if you cannot afford to pay court fees. The court clerk will help you in filling out the proper forms.

If you have left your home to avoid being abused, you can still file a petition.

#### WHAT CAN THE JUDGE DO FOR ME?

After you file your petition, the judge can sign a **Temporary** or **Permanent** Injunction, or both. Either type of injunction, or order, will tell the abuser that he/she may not be violent toward you. A Temporary Injunction can be obtained on the same day you file your Petition without a hearing or the abuser knowing first. A Temporary Injunction lasts for a stated period of time not to exceed thirty (30) days and is given to you by the judge when you are in **immediate** danger of being hurt.

A permanent injunction can go into effect later. This injunction is for a stated period of time not to exceed one (1) year unless extended by the court. The judge may want to hold a hearing before signing the Permanent Injunction.

#### WHAT DOES THE INJUNCTION DO?

Some things the judge may order in the injunction are:

- That the abuser not commit any acts of violence against you, your children, or others living with you;
- That the abuser immediately leave the home you share;
- That the abuser stay away from you home if you are not living together;
- That you have temporary custody of any children you and the abuser have together;
- That the abuser not make any harassing telephone calls to your home or place of work;
- That the abuser stay away from your job;
- That the abuser goes to counseling.

The judge can order other help, depending upon the circumstances. This is why the contents of the Petition and your attendance at all hearings are so important – so that you can tell the judge what you need and why you need it.

#### WHAT IF THE ABUSE OR THREATS HAPPEN AGAIN?

A person who refused to follow a judge's order can be put in jail. If the abuser disobeys the judge's order, contact the Sheriff's Office or Police Department and show them the certified copy of the Injunction for Protection. In some cases the deputy will arrest the abuser. Also, you can ask the judge to hold the abuser responsible for not following the judge's order/

Florida State Statute 741.31, titled, "Violation of an Injunction for Protection against Domestic Violence", says that a person who willfully violates an injunction for protection against domestic violence issued pursuant to s. 741.30 by **refusing to vacate** the dwelling that the parties share, or **returning to said property**, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. If either of these violations take place, the deputy may make an arrest and take the violator to jail.

#### IS COUNSELING AVAILABLE?

Counseling helps the battered take stock of their lives, formulate a plan, and establish goals. It helps battering persons learn how to change the unhealthy patterns of behavior that result in violence.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Peaceful Paths now has a satellite office operating in Bradford County. It is located at:

403 Georgia Street  
Starke, Florida 32091

Additional services and information can be obtained by visiting the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit's website:

<http://circuit8.org/domestic-violence>